lexandria Gazei

VOL. CII.---NO. 143.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 15, 1901.

PRICE 2 CTS.

MEDICINAL

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FERRYBOATS CRASH.

FERRYBOATS CRASH.

The wooden side wheel steamer Northfield, which hes been in the service of the New York and Staten Island Ferry Company for the last 38 years, was rammed last night by the steel-thulled propeller Mauch Chunk, used as a ferryboat by the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey.

The collision occurred just off the Staten Island ferry slip, at the foot of Whitehall street. In less than 10 minutes the Northfield, which was crowded with passengers, sank at the outer and of the Spanish Line pier in the East river.

river.

river.

The Mauch Chuck, which was badly damaged, landed the two dozen passengers who were aboard her.

Hundreds of passengers of the sunken Northfield were dragged out of the water by persons along shore and the crews of the fleet of river tugs, which promptly responded to the ferryboet's call for help. A few of the Northfield's passengers were burt in the accident, and it's thought that some lives are lost.

lost.
Capt. Daniel Gully, of the tugboat Mutual, who saw the ferryboats crash ogether, says that immediately after the collision between 25 and 30 of the passengers leaped into the water and that many of these perished, Captain Gully also declares that he is sure over 100 of the Northfield's passengers were drowned. The saptains of other tugboats who were arly on the scene are inclined to thick arly on the scene are inclined to thisk that the disaster was not so serious as

that the disaster was not so serious as to the loes of life. Thus far no dead bodies have been recovered.

The reason for such a difference of opinion as to the extent of the disaster is that the wildest excitement prevailed on the Northfield. The tug Mutual saved in all about 75 persons from the Northfield and the tugs Unity and Arrow saved 150 persons. Two policemen of the Old Ship station say they rescued nearly 30 persons between the disaster.

As soon as the crowd which had followed the sinking ferryboat along the river front was able to render any aid it worked with a will and in many instances men sprang into the water to save life. The greatest service was rendered by the tugboats, which, as coon as it was possible, cercled around the North field and made a bridge to the Spanish Line pier. Men and women clambered over the tugs to the men clambered over the tugs to the

While the Northfield was well supplied with life-preservers, which were stowed in out-of-the-way places, not more than two dezen of the endangered passengers were able to get them on. This state of sffairs was because the This state of sitairs was because the life preservers were not easily obtainable, and the wildest sort of a pacic followed when the hundreds of passengers realized their danger. This was only a few minutes before the Northfield sank to the bottom of the river, and then all who had not jumped to the tugs found themselves in the water.

The swiftly running floodtide and the question of which boat had the right of way was the cause of the disaster. Capt. Abraham Johnson was in charge of the Northfield and Capt. S. C. Griffio was in command of the Mauch Chuck. Each lays the blame for the collision on

Each lays the blame for the collision on the other.

The Northfield, with a load of pac-sengers estimated at between 800 and 1,200, at 601 p. m. started out of the west slip at Whilehall street for St. George, Staten Island. At 5:53 p. m. the Mauch Chunk left the railroad ellip at Communipaw for Whitehall street. The latter craft was abreast of the barge ffice at the Battery when the Northfield

came out of the slip.

An exchange of whistles between the boats was followed by the crash. Capcian [Griffin apparently believed that the Staten Island ferryboat would be helted until be bad worked his boat into the upper slip. On the other hand Captain Johnson supposed that he would be allowed to cross the Mauch Chunk's

When the accident appeared inevitable the speed of the ferryboat was reduced as much as possible under the circumstances. Bur, borne along by the swift-running fluct tide head on, the Mauch Chunk struck the Northfield on the starboard side at the Northfield on the starboard side at the hood of the forward ladies' cabit on the main deck. The blow was a terrific one and the force of it wrecked the steering gear at the forward end of the Mauch Chunk, tore up about ten feet of the main deck, wrecked the deckhouse on the port side, broke through the deck rail and threw down the stanchions on the forward part of the Central Railroad boat.

As the bumping of ferry boats is not

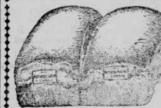
As the bumping of ferrybosts is not unusual in that harbor, the passengers on the Northfield did not for a minute on the Northeld did not lot in made or so realize the seriousness of the collision. When two firemen ran on deck to save the meelves from the inflow of water and the Northfield was being driven at full speed up North river in-stead of down toward Staten Island the passengers knew that something serious had happened. Then began the panic which continued until the North-

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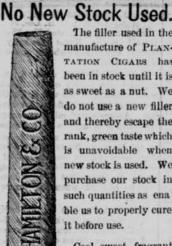
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